PRESS ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Scott Vanhorne, (909) 387-4833



County's Campaign Finance Reform Effort Moves Forward with New Law

SAN BERNARDINO—July 24, 2012—Gov. Jerry Brown signed a bill today that allows the California Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) to enforce campaign finance rules adopted by the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors.

"This legislation provides the County with an effective and affordable means of policing campaign contribution and spending rules," said San Bernardino County Second District Supervisor Janice Rutherford, who proposed the idea of contracting with the state agency in September. "Now the Board can move forward with adopting campaign finance rules that limit campaign contributions and help thwart influence peddling by deep-pocket donors."

Assemblyman Paul Cook introduced Assembly Bill 2146 at the request of the Board of Supervisors.

"This is a major victory for the public and for voters in San Bernardino County," Cook said. "This law will provide much more transparency in county government. I'd like to thank Supervisor Rutherford and the County of San Bernardino for bringing this bill to me and for working closely with my office to get it signed into law."

Rutherford proposed contracting with the FPPC as an alternative to creating an internal ethics commission to enforce campaign finance rules.

"There's no need to form another layer of County government when there's already a State agency that is more than capable of enforcing these rules," Rutherford said. "In addition, contracting with the FPPC helps us avoid the conflict of interest issues that come with ethics panels appointed by the elected officials they are trying to police."

In September, Rutherford proposed that the County develop campaign contribution limits based on the current limits for California Legislature candidates. The current limit is \$3,900 from a single source—including corporations, special interest groups, and individuals—per election cycle. The limits would apply to all candidates seeking any County elected office including, the Board of Supervisors, Sheriff, District Attorney, Assessor-Recorder, Auditor-Controller, and Superintendent of Schools.

Rutherford made the proposal after conferring with a group of former elected officials and local civic leaders she asked to consider and recommend ways to improve ethical accountability in San Bernardino County government.

"I appreciated the thoughtful discussions the group had about this issue, and I am pleased that my colleagues on the Board of Supervisors have been supportive the campaign finance recommendations they offered," Rutherford said.